GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:401
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
OIL SECURITY
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

a. whether the Government has evaluated the probable impact on oil imports in the event of natural disaster in oil producing countries as a consequence of Global Warming during coming decades after 2011 as predicted by IPCC of United Nations with clear indication of submerging most of the coastal cities of the world including Mumbai by 2030; b. if so, the overall impact on the energy scenario in the country indicating (Oil) PSU-wise status projected thereof; c. if not, the reasons therefor; d. the action taken by the Government in this regard; and e . the proposed investment, target and achievement made so far on the domestically viable alternative fuel mechanism and future research on this crucial subject?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(e) The Government is making efforts on continuous basis to ensure oil security in the country and also making investments in research and development of domestically viable alternative fuel in the country, as follows:

i. Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

ii. Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

iii. Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

iv. Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

v. Arresting decline from ageing fields.

vi. Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

vii. Construction of Strategic Storage of crude oil of 5 MMT capacity at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur.

viii. ONGC Energy Centre has been formed. The Centre will carry out R&D as well as D&C (demonstration and commercialization).The Centre is run by a Trust which has eminent experts. So far, work on three projects has begun. Also ONGC and BARC have signed an MOU on a collaborative R&D project on "Thermo-chemical processes for Hydrogen production from water", to harness nuclear energy for producing Hydrogen, a clean secondary fuel from water.

ix. IOC's R&D Centre has studied the entire value chain of bio-diesel from plantation to field trials. IOC has entered into a MOU with Indian Railways to study the complete value chain of bio-diesel. The project is one of its kind in the country where every aspect of Jatropha bio-diesel is being studied. It is expected that the production of Jatropha seeds will start from the end of 2008. IOC jointly with Tata Motors has completed field trial run on 43 buses using 10% bio-diesel blends.IOC has signed a MOU in November 2007 with Government of Chattisgarh for formation of Joint Venture for carrying out bio-diesel business in State.Government of Madhya Pradesh has also allotted non-forest waste land to IOC for plantation of Jatropha.

x. Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme is being implemented in almost all the States under the coordination of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

xi. In the areas of alternative fossil fuels IOC has been participating in Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration and exploitation activities and in consortium with ONGC has been awarded two CBM blocks in the State of Jharkhand.